Bogibeel Bridge Project

398. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allotted for construction of Bogibeel Bridge in the current financial year;

(b) the amount needed for completion of construction of the bridge and what is the time-frame; and

(c) whether a decision has been taken for conversion of Rangia-Murkongselek rail line into broad gauge and for connection of Moranhat with Dilorugar town by rail line, to facilitate full use of the Bogibeel Bridge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Rs. 40 crores.

(b) As per the survey report, cost of construction of this bridge has been assessed as about Rs. 1760 crore. The project is likely to be completed in a period of 6 years subject to availability of resources.

(c) It has been decided to process the proposal of conversion of Rangia-Murkongselek MG line to BG for necessary approvals, Moranhat-Dibrugarh link is a part of the sanctioned Bogibeel bridge project.

Distressed railway bridges

399. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the average age of railway bridges in the country, the number of bridges classified as distressed at present and by when the Railways are going to replace them;

(b) whether the Bridge Rehabilitation Committee had recommended in 1989 for replacement of girders for all the bridges, having three metre spans with concrete slabs for stability and protection; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to implement the recommendations?

THE MINSITER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The replacement of railway bridges